# Side-Chain Crystallinity. V. Heats of Fusion and Melting Temperatures on Monomers Whose Homopolymers Have Long Side Chains

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### **Synopsis**

Heats of fusion and melting temperatures were obtained for selected monomeric n-alkyl acrylates, N-n-alkylacrylamides, and vinyl esters. The corresponding thermodynamic parameters for homopolymers, derived from these monomers, had been reported previously from this laboratory. The  $\alpha$ -hexagonal crystal modification was indicated near the melting point for the higher n-alkyl acrylates, but a  $\beta$  form was stable at low temperatures for the entire series. The magnitude of the heats of fusion indicated  $\beta$ polymorphs for vinyl esters in support of x-ray diffraction analysis from the literature. Because hexagonal crystal geometry prevailed in all reported homopolymers having long side chains, greater emphasis was placed on thermodynamic data for monomers exhibiting this crystal modification. Accordingly, a convergence temperature was estimated statistically for the  $\alpha$ -hexagonal crystal modification of these systems and appropriate literature values of the n-alkanes and ethyl esters. The convergence temperature was computed to be 135°C, uncorrected for the entropy of disorientation. The anomalously large interfacial end-packing-defect energy of the poly(n-alkyl acrylates) and the poly-N-n-alkylacrylamides was shown to be associated with a high energy barrier to molecular transport in the melt as the vitreous state was approached. In support of this conclusion, similarity of the glass and melting transition temperatures of these homopolymer homologs occurred near their critical side-chain lengths, below which the homopolymers are amorphous. A special critical requirement of nucleus length was not indicated from rough estimations of nucleation parameters for the poly(n-alkyl acrylates). These findings lent increased, but still not unqualified, support to an x-ray diffraction study from the literature. The latter had specified the inclusion of the entire side chain and the main-chain units in the crystal lattices of the higher poly(n-alkyl acrylates).

#### INTRODUCTION

Previous publications of this series have presented some limited thermodynamic data on the crystallinity conferred by polymeric units having paraffinic branches. Studies were confined to the crystallinity present in homopolymers<sup>1</sup> and copolymers,<sup>2</sup> in which crystallinity developed in units having more than a critical side-chain length. Also studied was the influence of this crystallinity on the glass transition<sup>3</sup> and mechanical properties<sup>4</sup> of selected copolymers. In this investigation, some thermodynamic quantities are compiled for the monomers used to prepare the polymers

studied in the above series. These data should complement x-ray studies of the crystal state of vinyl stearate<sup>5,6</sup> and more recent diffraction measurements on the higher *n*-alkyl acrylates.<sup>7</sup> More importantly, they should aid in elucidating the as yet elusive nature of the crystal packing in homopolymers derived from these monomers. Before proceeding, however, a brief review of the existing state of knowledge of this area would appear useful, in view of recent, and somewhat conflicting developments.

The heats of fusion and melting points of homologous poly(n-alkyl acrylates), poly-N-n-alkylacrylamides, and poly(vinyl esters), were measured, in a previous study, by differential scanning calorimetry. It was tentatively concluded that crystallinity resided only in portions of the side chains present beyond a certain critical length; the remaining side chains and main-chain units were considered to be amorphous. The critical length varied between 9 and 12 carbon atoms in the bulk homopolymer, depending on the flexibility of the main-chain structure. Evidence for the partial crystallinity of each unit came from the isomorphic nature of mixtures of functionally different homopolymers, and from then narrowing of the calorimetric scanning peaks, as the side-chain length increased in any series. The anomalously large energy requirement for packing chain ends, found for all of the homopolymers, seemed to preclude packing of units along the length designated amorphous, 1 because there should be no extra energy requirement for packing groups terminating as methylene. The insertion of the main-chain units seemed to be excluded in view of the behavior of highly isotactic 1-octadecene, where both the main chain and side chain were incorporated into the crystal lattice. This packing yielded a higher melting point ( $\sim$ 71°C)<sup>8</sup> than was found when these systems were quenched<sup>8</sup> or were largely atactic.9 The atactic homopolymer9 melted at 41°C, close to the melting points of many structurally varied C16–C18 homopolymers.  $^{9-14}$ Plasticization of stiff homopolymers by a nonsolvent<sup>1</sup> raised heats of fusion and melting points, suggesting increased participation of methylene groups in the crystalline array. Of special significance, a long spacing for poly-(vinyl stearate)<sup>6</sup> of about 27 Å seemed to prohibit the incorporation of total side-chain length and main-chain units into crystalline structures.

Work recently published<sup>15,16</sup> however, is considerably at variance with the interpretation of limited crystallinity. Flexible C<sub>18</sub> poly(n-alkyl acrylates), whether atactic or significantly isotactic, were shown to have a long spacing in x-ray diffraction measurements of about 47 Å. This finding was entirely compatible with a lattice including complete side chains. It even suggested the inclusion of main-chain units. Side chains appeared to be packed in a two-layered structure, the chains having a configuration normal to the main chain units. When the main-chain units were bulky, as in the higher poly(n-alkyl methylacrylates), main chains were staggered, resulting in lowered heats of fusion and melting temperatures, with the concomitant exclusion of some strands of side-chain methylenes. Of special importance, no amorphous halo was found for the poly(n-alkyl acrylates), thus supporting the previous finding on poly(vinyl stearate).<sup>17</sup> These data suggested that homopolymers with flexible long side chains were almost

entirely crystalline. The inclusion of nearly all repeating units in crystallites had been previously estimated from measurements of the heats of fusion obtained by using diluents.

Among areas of agreement, all investigators 1,6,15,16 have presented evidence that the side chains are arranged normal to the main chain in the  $\alpha$ -hexagonal modification characteristic of certain paraffins at their melting point. 18 This packing persists at all undercoolings and remains the stable form at the melting point. In addition, no single work has established the presence of main-chain units in the lattice. However, in view of the findings of Jones<sup>8</sup> and Aubrey<sup>9</sup> on 1-octadecene, the exclusion of main-chain units of the polyesters and amides seems to be indicated, at least for atactic or only partially isotactic structures. In view of the new information from the Russian literature, several questions remain concerning the available thermodynamic data.<sup>1</sup> These relate to the abnormally large interfacial energy term for the end packing. This energy can be identified with the intercept of the plot of heat of fusion against side-chain length in homopolymers.<sup>1</sup> The possibility that this energy can be related to a requirement of critical side-chain length is obvious. Whether the critical length is associated with an insurmountable energy barrier to nucleation or whether it is identifiable with transport properties of the melt deserves consideration. Information on this point may be more properly deduced from knowledge of the interfacial term for the corresponding monomers having the same crystal packing.

The purpose of the present work was to determine the heats of fusion, melting points, and the derived entropies of fusion for the same vinyl monomers whose homopolymers were previously studied. Thus, selections of monomers from the homologous n-alkylacrylates, N-n-alkylacrylamides, and vinyl esters were investigated. Emphasis was placed on the  $\alpha$ -hexagonal transition ( $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow l$ ) of the monomers, when present, because of its relevance to the solid-state structure of the homopolymers. Additionally, data from the literature on alkanes or ethyl esters, having this crystal form stable at melting, were introduced. Parameters, yielding a common convergence temperature by the procedure of Broadhurst,19 for the hexagonal crystal form of these systems, was estimated by statistical means. through a comparison of roughly estimated nucleation parameters, derived from a partitioning of the interfacial term of the poly(n-alkyl acrylates), with the relative stiffness of the melts at varied chain lengths, a rational explanation of the critical side-chain length required for crystallization was attempted. This accomplished, greater harmony was found in the interpretation of results from differential scanning calorimetry<sup>1,2</sup> and from x-ray diffraction. 15, 16

#### EXPERIMENTAL

#### Monomers

*n*-Octyl acrylate, vinyl *n*-octanoate, and vinyl decanoate were from commercial sources; their purities by gas liquid chromatography, GLC, were

97.7%, 97.5%, and 96.1%, respectively. The preparation and purification of the other monomers has been reported.¹ Purities of these by GLC were about 99%, except for tetradecyl acrylate, 84.6%, and N-n-docosylacrylamide, 85.8%. Purity of each of the monomers used in this study was within the experimental error of elemental analysis. The influence of the impurities (largely nearest-neighbor homologs), when present in individual monomers, was reduced through statistical averaging on plotting the available data.

## Calorimetric Procedure

The procedures previously described were followed here, with exceptions as discussed below. The initial deflection of the melting endotherm from the base line was taken as the melting temperature  $T_m$ , because the scanning curves were sharp. This procedure tended to compensate for errors introduced by the high scanning rate of 10°C/min; in the case of a few broader curves, peak maxima were taken as marking  $T_m$ . While melting points are reported for bulk samples, negligible differences were found between the melting of bulk and crystallized samples. Polymorphic transformations of the higher n-alkyl acrylates and N-n-alkylacrylamides (discussed below in the text) presented difficulties in interpretation of the scans. Melting of the crystal form stable at low temperatures decreased the areas of some of In some cases, especially with the n-alkyl acrylates, this effect, when present in melting endotherms, was absent on freezing. The melting curves could then be corrected. In the N-n-alkylacrylamides corrections could be applied from the shape of the observed depression in individual scans, coupled with correlations from freezing curves, and from the pattern of behavior of near neighbors in the series. Because of the problems introduced by the premelting of polymorphs, uncertainty of some of the data is reflected in the experimental scatter of their plots.

## Refractometric Procedure

Refractometric procedure was as previously described.  $^{1}$ 

#### Computations

An IBM 1130 computer was used for most of the calculations and curve fitting. Convergence temperatures and related parameters were obtained by transforming the variables of the appropriate equation [eq. (3)] for fitting by a linear least-squares program, which computed the parameters and tested them for significance by an analysis of variance.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Heats, Entropies of Fusion, and Melting Points

The thermodynamic data are presented in Table I for all of the systems considered in this investigation. For comparison, thermal data from the

literature are included on the  $\alpha$ -hexagonal crystal modification of ethyl esters. <sup>20a</sup> The entropy quantities are smoothed data, as discussed below. The melting points were obtained by both differential scanning calorimetry and by a careful capillary method involving use of small samples at low heating rates. <sup>21</sup> The latter were considered to be as accurate as the heat of fusion measurements. A few melting points obtained by refractometry at relatively low heating rates (1°C/30 min)<sup>1</sup> supported the capillary results.

Limited x-ray studies have been conducted by other investigators on certain of the monomers studied in this paper. Vinyl stearate has been shown to be monoclinic at  $-45^{\circ}$ C, with an orthohrombic subcell, but density-temperature measurements show metastable  $\beta$  forms near room temperature. The  $\beta$  form is stable at melting,  $\beta$ -7 however. The  $\beta$ -alkyl acrylates (C<sub>16</sub>, C<sub>17</sub>, C<sub>18</sub>) were  $\beta$ -triclinic, but an  $\alpha$ -hexagonal modification was stable to about 10°C below the melting point. However, the  $\beta$  form persisted to melting. No crystallographic data apparently exist for the N-n-alkyl-acrylamides.

In this work, single calorimetric peaks, both in freezing and melting, were found for all of the vinyl esters, thus supporting the conclusions from the diffraction studies. The hexagonal modification was encountered in the higher (n = 17-25, Table I) n-alkyl acrylates on cooling a little below  $T_m$ , even at a scanning rate of 10°C/min. However, the transformation to a  $\beta$  form (presumably  $\beta$ -triclinic) was reversible on melting, at the same heating rates. Consequently the melting points in Table I are for the hexagonal modification. Impurities in the monomers, which tend to stabilize hexagonal structures, 6,18 may have affected the transformation. A single peak in both freezing and melting was found for the lower acrylate members in Table I. Because the energy changes with n were continuous with data for the  $\beta$ -crystal form of the higher members, the  $\beta$ -triclinic modification can be considered characteristic of these monomers also. Single peaks in freezing and melting were also found for the lower N-n-alkylacrylamides (n = 7-17), but for the higher members the melting curves were doublets, split by an accompanying exotherm. Freezing curves for the higher members were multipeaked, suggesting complex morphology. The overall energy change (corrected for exotherms) was used to calculate the heats of fusion of the N-n-acrylamides in Table I. Energy changes for all of the amide homologs were continuous functions of carbon length, so that a lowtemperature  $\beta$ -crystal form prevailed through the series. As a check on the resolution of the energy changes of the polymorphs in Table I, values of the transformations of ethyl stearate were determined by the same procedures used for the monomers. The literature 20a values were obtained.

The relationship between the heats and entropies of fusion and the carbon-chain length, n, fit the equations

$$\Delta H_f(\text{cal/mole}) = \Delta H_{fe} + \alpha n$$
 (1)

$$\Delta S_f(\text{cal/mole-deg}) = \Delta S_{fe} + \beta n$$
 (2)

TABLE I Heats of Fusion, Melting Temperatures, and the Derived Entropies of Fusion for the Monomers and Homopolymers

		Refrac-	32.5	32.5	25.8 38.2 50.8 66.4
•	T,, °C	Capillary	-26.5 4.0 17.5 25.0 32.5 48.5	17.5 25.0 32.5 48.5	
		DSC	-32.1 1.90 19.0 26.0 33.9 48.9	19.0 26.0 33.9 48.9	11.9 31.9 42.9 55.9 71.9
	ΔS <sub>f</sub>	cal/bond- deg	Cransition 2.26 2.35 2.36 2.36 2.36 2.36 2.37 2.37	1.30 1.40 1.47 1.57	ansition <sup>b</sup> 0.53 0.75 0.91 1.03
		cal/mole- dega	$T \rightarrow \alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow l. J$ 24.82 35.19 40.11 44.93 49.71 59.08	, ан → l Trar 22.03 26.51 30.85 39.26	85), $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow l  {\rm Tr}$ 8.00 12.78 17.27 21.57 29.88
$\begin{array}{ccc} {\rm Carbon} & & \Delta H_f \\ & {\rm length},  n & {\rm cal/g} & {\rm cal/mole} \end{array}$		cal/mole	<i>n</i> -Alkyl Acrylates, $\beta T \rightarrow \alpha H \rightarrow l$ Transition 6, 191 24.82 2.26 10, 120 35.19 2.38 10, 950 40.11 2.36 13, 820 44.93 2.36 14, 800 49.71 2.37 19, 220 59.08 2.36	$n$ -Alkyl Acrylates, $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow l$ Transition 5,718 22.03 8,035 26.51 9,314 30.85 112,640 39.26	Poly(n-alkyl Acrylates), $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow l$ Transition <sup>b</sup> 2, 103  8, 904  12.78  0, 53  5, 394  17.27  0, 91  6, 925  29.88  1.20
		cal/g	n-A 33.6 42.1 40.8 46.6 45.6 50.5	21.3 27.1 28.7 33.2	8.75 8.75 14.9 18.2 21.3 25.8
		length, n	11 15 17 19 21 25	17 19 21 25	15 17 19 21 25
	Monomer or	homopolymer	n-Octyl n-Dodecyl n-Tetradecyl n-Hexadecyl n-Octadecyl n-Octadecyl	n-Tetradecy. n-Hexadecyl n-Octadecyl n-Docosyl	$n ext{-}\mathrm{Dodecyl}$ $n ext{-}\mathrm{Tetradecyl}$ $n ext{-}\mathrm{Hexadecyl}$ $n ext{-}\mathrm{Octadecyl}$ $n ext{-}\mathrm{Docosyl}$

# SIDE-CHAIN CRYSTALLINITY. V

			75.3 34.4
	33.9 41.7 48.7 54.8 60.2 68.5 75.4		17.3 35.5 58.5 64.0 70.5 76.0 82.0 82.0 29.4 -9.6 5.6
			20.9 39.9 64.9 64.9 72.9 79.9 86.9 86.9 24.1 5.9 24.9 37.9
<b>.</b>	1.55 1.58 1.59 1.61 1.63 1.64	Inknown	1.56 1.95 2.08 2.12 2.14 2.14 2.18 2.18 2.11 2.11 2.11 2.17 2.18
Ethyl Esters, $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow l  {\rm Transition}^{\rm c}$	31.00 34.68 38.30 41.92 45.53 52.63	, Crystal State U	4, 108 10.93 6, 543 21.50 10, 630 31.27 11, 630 36.03 14, 660 40.69 15, 760 45.34 19, 130 54.50 5, 260 21.12 6, 703 25.86 8, 398 30.40 11, 830 43.44
Ethyl Esters, $\alpha$	9,440 10,900 12,400 13,800 15,200 17,900 19,750	N-n-Alkylacrylamides, Crystal State Unknown	4, 108 6, 543 10, 630 11, 630 14, 660 15, 760 19, 130 Vinyl Esters, 5, 260 6, 703 8, 398 11, 830 13, 440
	30.2 32.0 33.6 34.8 35.8 37.2 36.8	$N_{-n}$	32.3 35.7 44.4 43.5 49.6 48.7 50.4 30.9 33.8 37.1 41.9
	20 24 24 28 32 36 36		7 111 15 17 19 21 22 12 10 10 14 14 18 18 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20
	Stearate Eicosanoic Docosanoic Tetradecanoic Hexadecanoic Tricosanoic		n-Butyl n-Octyl n-Dodecyl n-Tetradecyl n-Hexadecyl n-Octadecyl n-Docosyl Cotanoate Decanoate Laurate Palmitate Stearate

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Smoothed values calculated by using eqs. (2) and (3).

<sup>b</sup> Heats of fusion and melting temperatures taken from Jordan et al.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>c</sup> Heats of fusion and melting temperatures taken from Lutton.<sup>20,4</sup>

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  represent the contributions of each added methylene group to the heats of fusion and entropy, respectively. In this paper n denotes the total carbon length;  $n_s$  is the carbon length of the alkyl group. The negative interfacial energy terms  $\Delta H_{fe}$  and  $\Delta S_{fe}$  express the defect energy for packing chain ends, because of reduced van der Waals interaction in the planar regions.<sup>22,23</sup> Values of the parameters are given in Table II. The negative enthalpy term increased as methyl was replaced by the bulkier functional groups of the series. Greater defect energy was found for the hexagonal modifications than was observed for those forms having tighter crystal packing. Tighter packing is also associated with the large values of  $\alpha$ , as can be seen. The anomalously large  $\Delta H_{fe}$  for the poly(n-alkyl acrylate) is characteristic of the homopolymers derived from these monomers. This will be considered in the sections below. The value of  $\alpha$  for the vinyl esters was similar to that of the higher n-alkanes n for n, between 11 and 13 (867 cal/mole CH<sub>2</sub>). This value for the n-alkanes was found by the same curve-fitting procedure used for the data in Table II. Both sets of compounds have an orthorhombic subcell. $^{6,18}$ 

The melting points for each series (necessarily equal to  $\Delta H_f/\Delta S_f$ ) were greatly influenced by the magnitude of the entropy parameters of Table II. When  $\beta$  was large and  $\Delta S_{fe}$  small, melting points tended to be low. This was true for the vinyl esters and the melting of the  $\beta$  form of the acylates. In contrast, hexagonal melting for both monomeric and polymeric n-alkyl acrylates was largely determined by the large value found for  $\Delta S_{fe}$ ; in the polymers this even overcame the influence of  $\Delta H_{fe}$  and produced higher melting points than were found for the parent monomers. In analogous fashion, small entropy values for the N-n-alkylacrylamides (specified by large  $\Delta S_{fe}$ ) and their relatively large enthalpy values (from small  $\Delta H_{fe}$ ) were responsible for the higher melting points found. These data suggest that a low liquid-state entropy determined the melting in both the acrylate polymers and in the amide monomers. This phenomenon was further reflected in the entropies computed on the basis of calories per bond in Table I. Here amide values were as low as those for the esters of hexagonal habit but drifted upward as the polar end unit was successively diluted by increasing numbers of methylene groups.

## Convergence Temperature of the Hexagonal Modification

It has long been known, principally from the work of Garner and coworkers<sup>24–28</sup> and in reviews of subsequent work,<sup>20b,29</sup> that the melting points of alkane chains substituted at only one end converge to a common value, as the carbon chain becomes infinitely long. This is essetially the melting point of a crystal composed of fully extended chains of linear polymethylene. The relation; which assumes linearity in both enthalpy and entropy, as functions of n, has the form

$$T_m = (\Delta H_{fe} + \alpha n)/(\Delta S_{fe} + \beta n) = T_{m0}(n+a)/(n+b)$$
 (3)

Parameters for Various Equations TABLE II

Equation (3)	a b		-2.161 3.526	-1.075 5.462	- 7.231 - 2.817 2.848		-1.097 4.855									
	$T_{m0}$ , ${}^{\circ}\mathrm{K}$		408.0	408.0	408.0°	410.2	406.9									
Equations (1) and (2)	Intercept, Slope,		H	$\pm$ 855.5 916.2 $\pm$ 1036.0 776.6	± 574.8 791.6 ±	+ 192.8 + 898.6	183.9	Entropies of Fusion	$0.992 \pm 0.118^{d}$ $1.84 \pm 0.004^{e}$	$0.54^{\rm d}$ $2.44 \pm 0$	± 1.09 <sup>d</sup> 2.30 ± (	$\pm 0.74^{d}$	+ 0.16 <sup>d</sup> 1.79 ±	Z.41 ±	$-0.933 \pm 0.33^{d} = 2.23 \pm 0.02^{e}$	
		System	78	<i>n</i> -Alkanes, $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow \iota$ <i>n</i> -Alkyl acrylates, $\beta_{\rm T} \rightarrow \alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow l$	<i>n</i> -Alkyl acrylates, $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow l$ Dolugaryl acrylates), $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow l$	Ethyl esters, $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow P$	N- $n$ -Alkylacrylamides $V$ :	VIII) I esters, P.m.		$n$ -Alkanes, $\alpha_{\rm H} \rightarrow \ell$	$n$ -Alkyl acrylanes, pr $\rightarrow a$	$n$ -Alkyl acrylates, $\alpha_H$ $\sim 1$	$\Gamma$ 01 $\gamma$ ( $l$ -air $\gamma$ ) act $\Gamma$ 1 $\gamma$ 1 octors $\rho$ 2 $\rightarrow l$	at Alledownlowides	N-n-Alkylaci ylamines	VIDVI esters, PM

<sup>a</sup> Data of Broadhurst.<sup>18</sup>
<sup>b</sup> Data of Lutton.<sup>20a</sup>
<sup>c</sup> The value of  $T_{m0}$  found for the *n*-alkanes was fixed for these systems, and values of *a* and *b* only were searched.
<sup>d</sup> In cal/mole-deg.
<sup>e</sup> In cal/mole-deg-CH<sub>2</sub>.

where  $T_{m0} = \alpha/\beta$  at  $n \to \infty$  is the convergence temperature and a and b are constants. Equation (3) applies only to crystals of the same geometry. While linearity with n for enthalpy is generally recognized,  $^{19,22}$  linearity of entropy with n is impossible,  $^{22}$  even when the temperature dependence of  $T_{m0}$  is considered. A correction term, based on consideration of the entropy of destruction of layered packing,  $^{22}$  can be applied, but its application requires extensive experimental data. In spite of these shortcomings, eq. (3) should be accurate over a wide range in the experimental region, and yield melting points low by only a few degrees, as  $T_{m0}$  is approached at large n. Because information on the melting temperature of the hexagonal crystal modification over ranges of n is relatively scanty, except for some data on n-alkanes,  $^{18}$  eq. (3) was applied to the capillary (or refractometric ) melting temperatures of Table I.

Values of a,b, and  $T_{m0}$  for the hexagonal modification of each set in Table I were obtained by least-squares curve fitting. Values of  $T_{m0}$  for each series fell close to the value (408.0°K) resulting from the abundant data on n-alkanes compiled by Broadhurst. 18 Consequently,  $T_{m0}$  was set equal to 408.0°K and values of a and b were recomputed for the other systems. Values of the parameters are given in Table II. The convergence temperature for hexagonal packing is only hypothetical; hexagonal polymethylene is unknown. However, the value of 408.0°K lies close to that predicted if one extrapolates limiting free energy of fusion-temperature curves reported for hexagonal n-alkanes.<sup>23</sup> As a check on the computing program, melting points  $(\beta_0 \rightarrow l)$  for the *n*-alkanes were curve-fitted in the range n = 11through 100 (by using calculated values for n < 44);<sup>22</sup> parameters equal to those obtained by Broadhurst<sup>19</sup> resulted. Included in Table II are parameters of the vinyl esters and the N-n-alkylacrylamides. Here  $T_{m0}$  was obtained in the computation. Comparison of calculated and found values is presented for the  $\alpha$ -hexagonal transition in Table III. Agreement was close, lending support to the utility of the parameters of Table II for estimating  $T_m$  over considerable ranges of n with reasonable accuracy. computed melting points were consequently used with enthalpy data [calculated by eq. (1)] to calculate the entropy values listed in Table I.

# Nucleation and Transport Properties of the Poly(n-Alkyl Acrylates)

As discussed in the introduction, recent x-ray information has suggested  $^{15,16}$  that the side chains in the higher poly(n-alkyl acrylates) are entirely crystalline. One of the difficulties with the model proposed by the Russian workers is that the planar interfacial regions are considered to be composed of methyl groups. As can be seen from the value of  $\Delta H_{fe}$  for n-alkanes (Table II), the defect energy for this end packing in the hexagonal crystal is relatively small. However, that for the poly(n-alkyl acrylates) is large. Jones considered this same model as possible for the type 1 crystal structure of the isotactic higher 1-alkenes. However, she suggested the main chains as constituting regions of chain ends. This proposal should

TABLE III
nparison of Melting Points Calculated by Equation (3) with Found Values<sup>a</sup>

	sters, → l	→ l Found					•	] :	314.7	321.7	1	327.9	333.2	341.5	348.4			
Comparison of Melting Points Calculated by Equation (3) with Found Values	Ethyl esters, $\alpha = \frac{1}{2} l$	43	Calcd						314.9	321.9		327.8	333.0	341.6	348.5			
	Poly(n-alkyl acrylates)	η <b>↑</b> Η α	Found			298.9	311.2	323.9			339.4							
	Poly(n-alk	α	Caled	Caron		298.1	312.4	323.5			339.4	) } }						
	n-Alkyl acrylates	$l \leftarrow H^{\infty}$		Calcd Found	245.9 246.5						391 7	320.4						
	"- Alkanes	4 1	αн	Calcd Found		82.7 283.0										349.3 $349.0$	353.4 353.5	358.1 $358.5$
				n C	11 2	15 2	17 2	19 3									30 68	

<sup>a</sup> Calculated by using the parameters of Table II with  $T_{m0}$  of  $408.0^{\circ}$ K, found for the *n*-alkanes, fixed for the others.

produce greater defect energy than that found for alkanes because of the volume requirement of the main-chain helices. However, when the main-chain units are considerably bulkier, as with atactic poly(n-alkyl acrylates), it is even questionable whether they are present in the crystallites. In any event, their role in producing planar defects would seem to be at least as great as that of the polymerizable group of the corresponding monomers.

These considerations indicate the importance of considering the relation between the large interfacial energy ( $\Delta H_{fe}$ , Table II) of the homopolymer homologs and the critical carbon-chain length per unit required before crystallinity commences. This will be considered in the sections below. An effort will be made to ascertain whether this enthalpy quantity is associated with transport properties of the melt, or whether it arises as a critical dimension limitation in the nucleation process. Because only very limited data is available for the computation of the nucleation parameters, these must be considered only rough approximations; the sole purpose of their estimation is to detect, qualitatively, any trends that might specify a critical side-chain length for stable nucleation.

By classical nucleation theory,<sup>30-33</sup> the homogeneous rate of formation of a stable primary nucleus from an embryo is governed by two activation processes. Thus, an appropriate relation is

$$I = NkT/he^{-\Delta F_p*/kT}e^{-\Delta F_f*/kT}$$
(4)

where I is the steady-state rate of primary nucleation. The quantity  $\Delta F_p^*$  is the free energy for transport of molecules over a short distance to the surface of the embryo or nucleus. The other activation parameter,  $\Delta F_f^*$ , defines the energy barrier to forming a nucleus of a critical size. Other quantities in eq. (4) are Boltzman's constant k, Planck's constant k, and Avogadro's number N. The transport process, being proportional to the viscosity of the melt,  $^{34,35}$  becomes important at low temperatures. This is especially true in polymers, in the vicinity of their glass transition temperatures, where steady-state activation no longer applies. On the other hand, the critical energy barrier to nucleation  $\Delta F_f^*$  dominates only at relatively small undercoolings. Consequently, because of the competition expressed by  $\Delta F_p^*$  and  $\Delta F_f^*$ , the rate of nucleation passes through a maximum as temperature is lowered.

On the assumption that the interfacial enthalpy term for the poly(n-alkyl acrylates),  $\Delta H_{fe}$ , contains a contribution to the enthalpy of nucleation, the intercept of eq. (1) may be partitioned as follows

$$\Delta H_{fe} = \Delta H_{fn} + \Delta H_{feM} + \Delta H_{feR}$$
 (5)

where  $\Delta H_{fn}$  is the enthalpy of nucleation,  $\Delta H_{feM}$  the energy of packing the methyl-terminating endgroup and  $\Delta H_{feR}$  the energy of packing the bulkier group at the other end of the molecule. If  $\Delta H_n$  is small for simple compounds,  $\Delta H_{fe}$  for the n-alkanes in Table II may be approximated by  $2\Delta H_{feM}$  while  $\Delta H_{fe}$  for the ethyl and acrylate esters is the sum  $\Delta H_{feM} + \Delta H_{feR}$ . The minimum carbon-chain length of the unit required for nucleation in

the acrylate homopolymers may be assumed to be the value of n at  $\Delta H_f = 0$ . This quantity,  $n^*$ , is given by

$$n^* = \Delta H_{fe}/\alpha \tag{6}$$

The starred quantities will be designated "critical" quantities in this discussion. The energy assumed to be associated with the nucleation process in the poly(n-alkyl acrylates) is, therefore

$$\Delta H_{fn} = \Delta H_{fe\text{POA}} - \Delta H_{fe\text{OA}} \tag{7}$$

where POA and OA represent poly(octadecyl acrylate) and monomeric octadecyl acrylate, respectively. This quantity is -2815 cal/mole CH<sub>2</sub>. If crystallinity resides in only the total length of the side chains of any homologous series of homopolymers, <sup>15,16</sup> a convenient factor may be defined as

$$-f = (\Delta H_{fn}/\Delta H_{fe})_{POA} = -0.2918$$
 (8)

The enthalpy of fusion of each side-chain methylene group [ $\alpha$  in eq. (1)], expressed in ergs/cm<sup>3</sup>, may now be corrected for the energy of nucleation by

$$\Delta H_{fc} = -f\Delta H_{fe}/[(f'\Delta H_{fe}/\alpha)V_n] + \alpha/V_n \tag{9}$$

where  $\Delta H_{fc}$  is the corrected enthalpy and f' is another factor, which reduces the intercept  $\Delta H_{fc}$  of the unit-chain-length relation, eq. (1), to a value relating to side chains only.<sup>1</sup> The factor f' is given by

$$f' = (14.026n + 1.01)/MW_{unit}$$
 (10)

and  $V_n$  is the volume fraction of a methylene group (16.17 cm³/mole).<sup>37</sup>

With the nucleus geometry considered as a cylinder, with the length  $l_0$  fixed  $l_0$  by the contour length of the side chains  $[(n_s/2) \ 2.54 \times 10^{-8} \ cm]$  and with a variable critical radius  $r^*$  for the free-energy surface,  $l_0$  the expressions derived by Hoffman  $l_0$  were used. These described the analogous case of a nucleus length, fixed as the radius varied, over a confined range of undercooling. The expressions used to calculate the nucleation parameters, listed in Table IV, are  $l_0$ 

$$\Delta F_c = \Delta H_{fc} (\Delta T / T_m) \tag{11}$$

$$r^* = \delta_s/\Delta F_c \tag{12}$$

$$\delta_e = l_0 \Delta F_f / 4.0 \tag{13}$$

$$\Delta F_c^* = \pi l_0 \delta_s^2 / \Delta F_c \tag{14}$$

where  $\Delta H_{fc}$  is from eq. (9);  $\Delta F_c$  is the corrected free energy of fusion, in ergs/cm<sup>3</sup>;  $\delta_s$ , the side free energy of the cylinder, is taken as 9.64 ergs/cm<sup>2</sup> (as was calculated for *n*-octadecane and used as the side-surface free energy of polyethylene<sup>39</sup>), and  $\delta_c$  is the end-surface free energy, in ergs/cm<sup>2</sup>. The undercooling  $\Delta T$  was an average value, 8.8°C for the poly(*n*-alkyl acry-

Nucleation Parameters Estimated by the Use of Equations (9)–(14) TABLE IV

	b, c		9.0 13.0		0.60   0.55					
(#I) (0) cricronn	n-Alkanes $n-n$ *	1 1 0 m	0.7	13.5 13.5 13.5	$0.73 \qquad 0.65$	13.3 14.8	11.4 14.0	2.07 2.27	192 211	5.8 5.9
	-alkyl acrylates), $n_s - n_s * b, c$	8 6.8 8.8 12.8	19 & 10 0	0.35 0.24 0.54	27.5 $98.1$ $99.0$	20.3 22.9 27.0	1.78 1.96 9.34	165 182 218	5.5 57 60	16.9 10 5 94.9
, r d	roly(n-	2.8 4.		0.37 0.36						
		Farameters*	$\Delta H_f  imes 10^{-8},  \mathrm{ergs/cm^3}$	$\Delta F \times 10^{-8}$ , ergs/cm <sup>3</sup>	$r^* \times 10^8$ , cm	$t_0 \times 10^8$ , cm	$o_e$ , ergs/cm <sup>z</sup>	os 20, ergs / cm	o, ergs/cm²	$\Delta F + \times 10^{-3}$ , ergs

<sup>a</sup> Model of the nucleus was taken to be a cylinder. The side surface free energy  $\delta_s$  was assumed to be 9.64 erg/cm², as was found experimentally for 6.3 n-octadecane. 33

be The undercooling  $\Delta T$  was an average value of 8.8°C for the poly(n-alkyl acrylates); for the n-alkanes the undercooling selected\*\* was 12°C. Melting temperatures are from Table I.

° The critical minimum length of the side-chain nucleus  $n_s^*$  was calculated by  $\Delta H_{fo}/\alpha$  to be 9.2 for the poly(n-alkyl acrylates); the minimum nucleus length was calculated to be 4.0 for the n-alkanes by eq. (6).

lates). It was the temperature difference between the melting point and freezing point at the experimental scan rate of  $10^{\circ}$ C/min. Deviation from this value for individual polyesters were small. The undercooling  $\Delta T$  for the parameters of the n-alkanes in Table II [calculated by using eq. (9)] was taken as  $12^{\circ}$ C; this is the approximate temperature of the isothermal rate maximum found for certain n-alkanes.<sup>33</sup> In view of the large temperature coefficient for the nucleation of n-alkanes, the error in this arbitrary selection is thought to be small. Included in Table II, for comparison with other reported data, <sup>30</sup> are the saddle-point surface-free-energy parameter  $\delta_s^2 \delta_e$  and the mean interfacial-free-energy term  $\delta$ . Again, for purposes of comparison, the poly(n-alkyl acrylates) and n-alkanes were taken at similar values of  $(n^* + n)$ .

The parameters in Table IV are all reasonable values,  $^{30,33,38}$  even though  $\delta_e$  may be a little large ( $\sim 0.5$  erg/cm² has been estimated for some compounds  $^{38}$ ). The upward drift in  $\delta_e$  with side-chain length in both systems probably resides in the uncertainty in  $\Delta T$ ; small changes in the undercooling with change in n would compensate for the drift. Both the homopolymers and n-alkanes have similar values for the parameters, even though the difference in carbon lengths of the two systems is about 8 methylene groups. The significant fact to emerge from these approximate values is that no special tendency toward intrinsically unstable nuclei or unrealistic radii sizes are to be found as the critical length ( $n^* - n = 0$ ) is approached. Consequently, a critical side-chain length, below which nuclei would be unstable at all undercoolings, is not specified. These data suggest that lowered rates of diffusion to nucleus sites may be responsible for the retardation of crystallization for chains shorter than  $n^*$ .

Figure 1 shows a plot of the glass and melting temperature for the poly-(n-alkyl acrylates) versus their side-chain length  $n_s$ .  $T_g$  values are from an

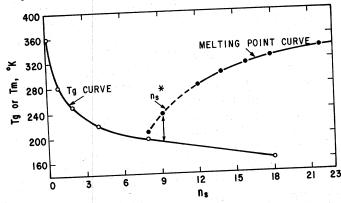


Fig. 1. Plot of the glass transitions  $T_g$  and the melting temperatures  $T_m$  for the homologous poly(n-alkyl acrylates) vs. the number  $n_s$  of methylene groups (including terminal methyl) in the side chain. The temperature difference between the melting curve and the  $T_g$  curve at the critical side-chain length below which crystallinity is absent in homologs,  $n_s^*$ , is indicated by the double arrow. Melting points were calculated by using eq. (3).

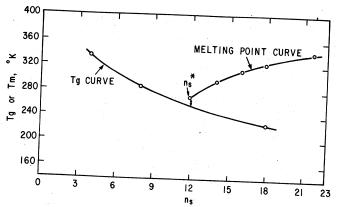


Fig. 2. Plot of the glass transitions  $T_{\sigma}$  and the melting temperatures,  $T_m$  for the homologous poly(N-n-alkylacrylamides) vs. the number  $n_s$  of methylene groups (including terminal methyl) in the side chain. The temperature difference between the melting curve and the  $T_{\sigma}$  curve, at the critical side chain length below which crystallinity is absent in homologs,  $n_s^*$ , is marked by the double arrow.

earlier study.<sup>3</sup> The curves tend to intersect in the neighborhood where  $n_s$ \*  $\sim$ 9.2 (double arrow). This is the value of  $n_s$  of homologs below which crystallinity has been shown to be absent.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, in Figure 2, melting points and glass transition temperatures approach closely at  $n_s$  of 12 for the N-n-alkylacry lamides. For this system  $n_s^*$  is 12. The difference between  $T_m$  and  $T_g$  is greater for the acrylates than for the N-n-alkylacrylamides (relative heights of the double arrows in Figures 1 and 2). It is pertinent that the extent of crystallinity at  $n_s' - n_s = 2.8$  was higher for the polyacrylates than for the poly (N-n-alkylacrylamides). The plots constitute strong evidence that the observed retardation of nucleation in the homopolymers having long side chains is produced by a high energy barrier to molecular transport  $[\Delta F_p^*]$  in eq. (4) rather than by a critical dimension requirement for nucleation  $(\Delta F_f^*$  in the same equation). The anomalously large interfacial energy term ( $\Delta H_{fe}$ , Table II) of eq.(1), consequently, appears to arise as a defect energy associated with a retarded rate of molecular diffusion as the glass transition is approached. The temperature of the approach to the vitreous state is controlled by the free volume available in polymeric systems of varied structures. Thus restrictions on movement of the side chains, imposed by stiffness in the main chains of homopolymers, appear to determine the critical side-chain length required for effective This, in turn, governs the increase in magnitude of the intercept in eq. (1) for any given polymer structure relative to its monomer. It may be concluded that inclusion of total side chains in crystallites, as is clearly specified in recent literature, 15,16 produces an additional reduction in internal energy associated with a barrier to molecular transport, over the defect energy of packing groups larger than methylene. Consequently, the inclusion of all groupings in the polymer unit are not energetically excluded from crystallites provided the critical side-chain length has been exceeded.

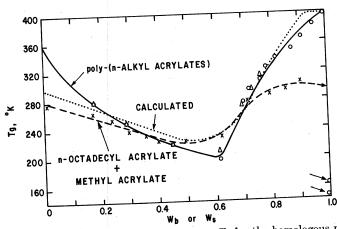


Fig. 3. Influence of side-chain crystallinity on  $T_g$  for the homologous poly(n-alkyl acrylates), (—) plotted as  $T_g$  vs. the weight fraction  $w_s$  of side chain per homopolymer unit; values of  $T_g$  for the crystalline homopolymers were calculated by using eq. (15); ( $\Delta$ ) literature values of  $T_g$ . Comparison is shown with (--) data for copolymers of n-octadecyl acrylate and methyl acrylate<sup>3</sup> plotted as the weight fraction of n-octadecyl acrylate  $w_b$ ; (...) calculated for the poly(n-alkyl acrylates) by using eq. (16). Arrows indicate the  $T_g$  of (top) amorphous poly(n-octadecyl acrylate); (bottom) polyethylene.

Opposing the inclusion of main chain units, however, is the seeming isomorphic behavior of homopolymer mixtures and the other evidence discussed in the introduction.

# Effect of the Glass Transition on the Development of Side-Chain Crystallinity in Homopolymers and Copolymers

The rate-controlling limitation imposed by difficulties in molecular transport, discussed above in connection with homopolymers, seemed to apply equally well in determining the onset of crystallinity in copolymers. This may be seen from the plots in Figure 3. The solid line is a plot of the glass transition temperature for the poly(n-alkyl acrylates) versus the weight fraction of the side chain of each homolog  $w_s$ . The  $T_g$  values are from a previous paper;<sup>3</sup> those at the right ( $w_s > 0.6$ ), in the region where side-chain crystallinity is causing the apparent  $T_g$  to rise, were computed from the empirical equation

$$T_g = T_m - 12^{\circ} \tag{15}$$

This relation was obtained, partially, by a correlation of onset temperature for poly(n-octadecyl acrylate)<sup>3</sup> with an averaging of the onset temperatures of the fusion curves for other homopolymers exhibiting side-chain crystallinity. Literature values of  $T_g$ ,<sup>40</sup> shown in the figure as triangles, lie close to the line. These lend support to the validity of eq. (15). The value of  $T_g$  at  $w_s = 1.0$  is for hypothetical hexagonally crystallized polymethylene. This plot may be compared with one (dashed line) for copolymers of n-octadecyl acrylate and methyl acrylate.<sup>3</sup> The  $T_g$  values are plotted here

against the weight fraction of n-octadecyl acrylate, designated  $w_b$ . superficial resemblance of the two curves is obvious. Thus, the onset of crystallinity occurred in both systems at  $w_s$  or  $w_b$  of 0.5 or 0.6. In a previous publication<sup>3</sup> it was demonstrated that the onset of crystallinity, due to units of n-octadecyl acrylate in copolymers, was a function of the specific vitreous state of the copolymers; the lower the glass transition, the smaller the value of  $w_b$  required to initiate crystallinity. Generally the critical temperature difference  $(T_m^* - T_g^*)$  below which crystallinity is prevented<sup>3</sup> at all undercoolings is 25-40°C. Again, a common requirement of both homopolymers and copolymers appears to be a critical free volume in the melt, which specifies the attainment of sensible rates of nucleation. On extending these principles to the case of simple n-alkanes, their weak glassforming tendency  $^{33-35}$  can be associated with the excellent mobility of their melts at all but the most extreme undercoolings. Thus, free, short-chain linear alkanes can be considered to represent the limiting case of the behavior of alkane side chains, restricted in their movement by attachment to polymeric main chains.

An empirical equation was described in a previous publication<sup>3</sup> for predicting the  $T_{g}$  of copolymers containing n-octadecyl acrylate, over all compositions. It satisfactorily expressed the rise in apparent  $T_{g}$  as side-chain crystallinity developed. The equation was

$$T_{g} = w_{a}T_{ga} + [w_{b}' + (w_{c}' - w_{c}'^{C+k_{s}w_{b}})]T_{gb} + (w_{c}'^{C+k_{s}w_{b}})T_{gc}$$
(16)

where  $T_{ga}$  is the  $T_g$  of the amorphous homopolymer  $T_{gb}$  is the glass transition of the amorphous state of the unit exhibiting side-chain crystallinity, and  $T_{gc}$  is the observed glass transition. C and  $k_s$  were constants having the values 4.0 and -4.0, respectively. The weight fraction of amorphous homopolymer is  $w_a$ , and  $w_b = w_b' + w_c'$ . The weight fraction of crystallizable comonomer is  $w_b$ , and  $w_b'$  and  $w_c'$  are the portions of  $w_b$  that are amorphous and crystalline, respectively. These quantities are related to the ratio of the actual extent of crystallinity, to the maximum possible at equilibrium,  ${}^2x_c/x_{c,\max}$ , by the relations

$$w_{c'} = [(x_{c}/x_{c,\text{max}})_{0} + Aw_{b} + Bw_{b}^{2}]w_{b}$$

$$.w_{b'} = 1 - w_{c'}.$$
(17)

For stiff amorphous homopolymers,  $(x_c/x_{c,max})_0$ , A, and B were 0.1030, -0.3567, and 1.290, respectively. This equation [eq. (16)], applied to the data for the homopolymeric poly(n-alkyl acrylates), with  $w_b$  replaced by  $w_s$ , is shown as the dotted line in the figure. For this calculation  $T_{ga}$  was taken as 300°K,  $T_{gb}$ , the value accepted for hypothetical linear amorphous polyethylene,  $-130^{\circ}\mathrm{C}^{41}$  (lower arrow in the figure) and  $T_{gc}$  is from the convergence temperature, 408.0°K, through eq. (15), giving 123°C as  $T_{gc}$ . Agreement with experimental values is close enough to indicate the general utility of this equation in predicting the  $T_g$  of copolymers and homologous homopolymers in the amorphous region, as well as apparent values as  $T_g$ 

is influenced by the development of side-chain crystallinity. This agreement again emphasizes the common origins of the morphological behavior of systems containing long side branches.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Heats, entropies of fusion, and melting temperatures were obtained for three homologous series of monomers. Comparison was made of the thermodynamic data with similar data for homopolymers reported previously. Because the hexagonal crystal geometry prevails in homopolymers, monomeric systems exhibiting this crystal structure were more extensively studied. In keeping with this purpose the useful range of the data was extended by obtaining convergence temperatures for hypothetical hexagonal linear polymethylene for all systems exhibiting this crystal form at melting. The metastable hexagonal convergence temperature was estimated to be 408.0°K for these systems. The effect of stiffness of the melt on the diffusion of segments to a crystal nucleus was considered to determine the critical side-chain length required for the onset of crystallinity. Diffusional factors appeared to determine the onset of crystallinity of both homopolymers and copolymers at all undercoolings. These imposed an additional reduction in internal energy in homopolymers. Consequently, the inclusion of total side chain and main chain units in crystallites, specified by recent x-ray data from the literature, is not energetically excluded, provided the critical side-chain length has been exceeded. However, the extant thermal data still seem to exclude main-chain units from crystallites.

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Reference to brand or firm name does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture over others of a similar nature not mentioned.

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